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- (54) Title:** PLANT STRESS TOLERANCE GENES, AND USES THEREFOR

[illegible]

- (57) Abstract:** Plant stresses such as pest infestations, disease, drought, flood, and excessive temperatures can lead to significant losses of crops each year. There is a continuing need to develop novel plant varieties that are less susceptible to damage or loss by such stresses. The present invention provides for the isolation, characterization and use of an entirely novel class of plant genes, generally designated *ROB5*. Transgenic plants expressing *ROB5* can show a dramatic improvement in their capacity to tolerate a variety of stress conditions. Moreover, *ROB5* expression can further lead to marked increases in plant growth rates and plant vigor. The present invention encompasses all such *ROB5* genes and peptides encoded thereby, plants expressing corresponding *ROB5* constructs, and plant products thereof.

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